Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1989-90

Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board

91-04188/

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Letters of Transmittal

May 28, 1990

The Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk, O.C., S.O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of
the Province of Saskatchewan

May It Please Your Honour:

I have the pleasure to submit to your Honour the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board for the year ending March 31, 1990.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable J. Gary Lane, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General

May 28, 1990

The Honourable J. Gary Lane, Q.C.
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
Province of Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan

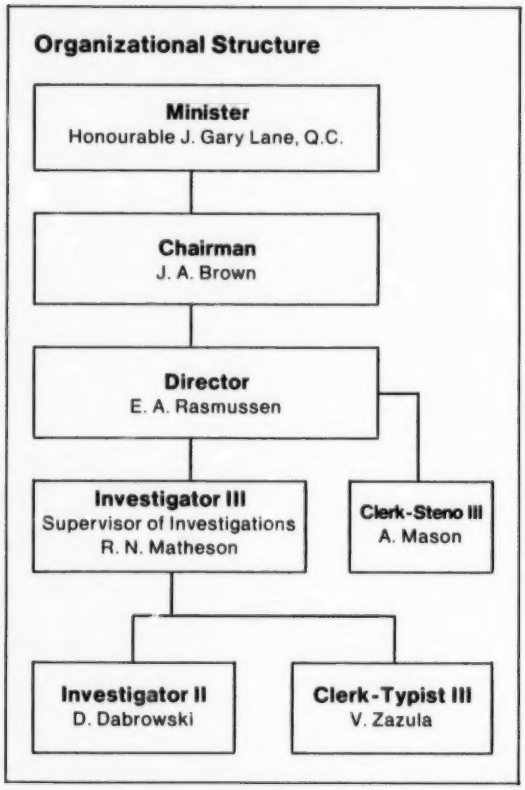
Dear Mr. Lane:

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board for the year ending March 31, 1990.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor J. A. Brown
Chair

I. Organization



A. Board

The Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council pursuant to Section 77 of the Saskatchewan Farm Security Act. In this fiscal year members appointed were Professor Jake Brown, Chair, Darwin Lackey, Vice-Chair, Arden Body, Elmer Lyke, Irene Smyth, Chester Minhinnick and Grant Payant.

B. Objectives

Part VI of The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act is one of the programs instituted to improve and stabilize the economic and social environment in rural Saskatchewan. Its primary objective is to ensure that residents or Saskatchewan corporations engaged in farming will own the majority of Saskatchewan agricultural lands.

The responsibility of the Board in administering the Act includes making or advising on policy decisions, hearing applications for exemption and extension, recommending amendments to the Act and Regulations, issuing Orders for Divestment, and recommending Court action for violations of the Act's provisions.

C. Administration

In the 1989/90 fiscal year, staff were required to process, investigate and document 673 transfers of land to non-resident individuals and 1,071 transfers to corporate interests. Staff also investigated and processed 278 applications for exemption and 231 applications for extension in time to comply with the legislation. In addition, staff responded to personal or written enquiries and monitored the activities of 431 open files carried over from the previous fiscal year.

II. Activities

A. Monitoring and Investigation

The Board monitored all changes of interest in rural land which were processed through the eight land title offices in the province. 12,869 transfers involving 3,835,948 acres were monitored. This resulted in 875 non-resident investigations and 580 corporate investigations by Board staff.

In this fiscal year, non-residents acquired title to 159,395 acres. The interests acquired resulted primarily from the special exemption provisions afforded non-resident relatives of present or past residents of Saskatchewan.

Individuals resident in Canada may have or acquire an aggregate land holding not exceeding 320 acres. One-hundred and fifty individuals purchased a total of 25,614 acres under this provision.

Individuals residing outside Canada may have or acquire an aggregate land holding not exceeding ten acres. Three non-Canadians purchased a total of 24 acres under this provision.

Table I

Comparative Statistics
— Non-Resident Transfers

	Transfers	Acres	Files
1987-88	620	158,129	816*
1988-89	565	125,692	748*
1989-90	673	159,395	875*

* *One transfer may result in several individuals acquiring an interest.*

In this fiscal year, corporations acquired an interest in 801,928 acres. A majority of the land was acquired by corporate creditors under the special two year exemption provided for the realization, quit claim, settlement or other disposition of a security and by Saskatchewan corporations engaged in the business of farming.

Non-agricultural corporations that are majority owned by Saskatchewan residents or agricultural corporations may have or acquire an aggregate land holding not exceeding 320 acres. One hundred and six corporations purchased a total of 7,327 acres under this provision during this fiscal year.

Non-agricultural corporations that are not majority owned by residents, may have or acquire an aggregate land holding not exceeding ten acres. Sixteen corporations purchased a total of 63 acres under this provision during this fiscal year.

Table II

Comparative Statistics
— Corporate Transfers

	Transfers	Acres	Files
1987-88	653	336,137	311*
1988-89	809	360,903	362*
1989-90	1,071**	801,928	580*

* *Several transfers may involve one corporation.*
** *Includes Crown Corporations.*

B. Applications for Exemption

The Board has the authority to consider applications for exemption which, if granted, allow non-eligible individuals and corporations to have or acquire a land holding in excess of that allowed under the farm ownership provisions of The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act.

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 170 requests received from non-resident individuals involving 80,556 acres. One hundred and forty-one applications totalling 78,103 acres were granted. Twenty-nine requests totalling 2,453 acres were denied.

Table III

Comparative Statistics
— Non-Resident Applications for Exemption

	Granted	Acres	Denied	Acres
1987-88	188	56,014	6	825
1988-89	268	84,572	15	1,995
1989-90	141	78,103	29	2,453

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 108 requests for exemption received from non-agricultural corporations involving 131,616 acres. All applications were granted.

Table IV

Comparative Statistics
— Corporate Applications for Exemption

	Granted	Acres	Denied	Acres
1987-88	180	114,908	1	—
1988-89	138	134,776	0	—
1989-90	108	131,616	0	—

C. Applications for Extension

The Board has the authority to extend the two-year time period allowed creditors acquiring an interest in land by the realization, quit claim, settlement or otherwise of a security.

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 231 requests received from financial institutions involving 146,358 acres. All requests were granted.

Table V

Comparative Statistics
— Applications for Extension

	Granted	Acres	Denied	Acres
1987-88	58	37,487	0	—
1988-89	69	60,169	0	—
1989-90	231*	146,358	0	—

* *Includes Crown Corporations.*

D. Board Meetings

In addition to considering applications for exemption and extension, at 12 meetings held during this fiscal year, the Board classified 4 individuals as "residents" and 26 corporations as "agricultural corporations" for purposes of the Saskatchewan Farm Security Act.

The Board also held that 19 non-resident individuals and corporations had acquired an interest in land in violation of the Act's provisions. Ten Orders to Reduce Land Holding were issued during this fiscal year. One case remained outstanding at year end.